



## MEETING NOTES

### **Region 39 Action Council Meeting**

**Location: Decatur Public Library**

**Date & Time: 10 am- 12 pm, February 2, 2023.**

Council Members present: Jeff Dase, Karen House, Amy Steck, Tammy Robinson, Kristine Hansen, Stephanie Strick

Council Members Absent: Cathy Lucas, Maria Goad, Brian Rhoades, James Keith, Megan Meyrick, Michelle Witherspoon

#### **10:00 AM Welcome & Introductions**

Notes: The council was welcomed to the meeting

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

#### **Start Time: 10:10 AM Community Agreements**

Notes: The Council reviewed the agreed-upon Community Agreements.

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

#### **Start Time: 10:15AM Community Collaborations & Family Council Report Out**

Notes: The Macon County Early Childhood Collaboration was introduced and described to the council and participants were welcomed to join. The future council meeting schedule through May was shared with each method of delivery (virtual or in person) along with the subject matter of each meeting. Kista Corrington, Region 39 Face Specialist, gave a brief report from the Family Council meeting on 2/1/2023.



Some of the topics that the Family Council wanted to be reported were:

- Be mindful of the demographics in our community (Mt Zion schools speak 14 languages)
- Piatt county has minimal access to ECEC services, and nothing meets the needs of families that need care that work 12-hour shifts as there are no services available at that time
- Parents that are high risk and need the free services available in Macon county are being faced with 4-month waiting lists and facing barriers

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

### **Start Time: 10:40AM Priority Populations Simulation**

Notes: A quick overview of the Region 39 scan was done as a reminder of the following data points:

- Children under age 6 under 100% and 200% of the Federal Poverty Level
- Percentage of students by school in Region 39 that do not have permanent or adequate housing
- Unhoused and Housing assistance by county
- Number and percent of children under age 2 receiving EI services
- Number and percent of children aged 3 to 5 receiving Early Childhood Special Education services
- Teen parent birth rates by year/county
- Child maltreatment/DCFS Involvement by county
- Placement of children in DCFS care by county
- Number of household languages for Region 39



The council was broken into two groups and a priority populations simulation was done where for each persona listed, each group was tasked with stating the Barriers, Resources, and Root causes for that persona. Some of the content to come out of this exercise were:

Persona	Barriers	Resources	Root Causes
Parent/Guardian Unhoused	Money, can't afford child care but also can't seek employment without it, lack of slots	Family/friends Oasis – can use their address for mail North East Community Fund	Covid Things beyond their control
Parent/Guardian has a disability	Lack of mental health services, turnover, lack of care for typical and non-typical programs	Heritage Behavioral Health Macon Resources Private therapists	Money Staffing to create non-typical care
Parent/Guardian with child welfare involvement	DCFS Lack of knowledge of what parents experience Drs not having enough time to really see issues	Home Visiting DPS PreK Heritage Behavioral Health	Lack of life skills courses at the high school level Problems with biological parents Lack of healthy examples Foster parent is not given enough information

The group reconvened and had a deep discussion about the information that came forth during the exercise. Some of the thoughts shared were:

- We are missing community relationships. It will take a long time, but we need an immediate solution
- This community is missing relationships and trust
- The culture today doesn't want to invest the time it takes in overwhelming situations
- All of these programs are great but systemically where do we start? Who is the who?



- Some families no longer have a set pediatrician as they use the Urgent Cares and Emergency Rooms for treatment, which then leads to seeing a different Dr. each time and no one is monitoring or following the child(ren)
- We need to rebuild the trust in the community and go to them not wait for them to come to us
- Home visiting and time with parents early on as a way to build trust and find ways for children to have the same teacher for multiple years
- Parents need to be engaged in their children's lives, not just involved
- One of the main missing links for families is awareness of resources
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Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: N/A

**Start Time: 11:55AM Questions & Concerns**

Notes: No questions or concerns currently

Decisions made: N/A

Next Steps: Heather to email electronic Focus Group flyers to the council. Heather also plans to go to Mt Zion library and update the Birth to Five Illinois display case. Meeting notes are to be uploaded to shared Google drive as soon as available.

**Next Meeting:**

- Thursday, February 16, 10am-11am- Zoom
- Thursday, March 2, 10am-12pm - In-person (depending on weather and health factors)